THE TARHEEL WASHOFF

SOIL EROSION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NORTH CAROLINA AREA

Circular No. 2

High Point, North Carolina
September 15, 1934

Can You Listen To It Rain With A Clear Conscience?

THE EROSION CONTROL 3'S

Objectives:

I. Minimize Washoff

1. Conserve soil
2. Protect bottomlands
3. Protect reservoirs

II. Lessen Runoff

1. Less damage by drought
2. More water power
3. Reduce flood hazard

III. Better Land Use

1. Balanced field-crop practice
2. Woodland protection and capitalization
3. Wild game protection and capitalization

Benefits:

I. More Valuable Farm

II. Increased Farm Income

III. Fuller Living for Farm Families

-0-

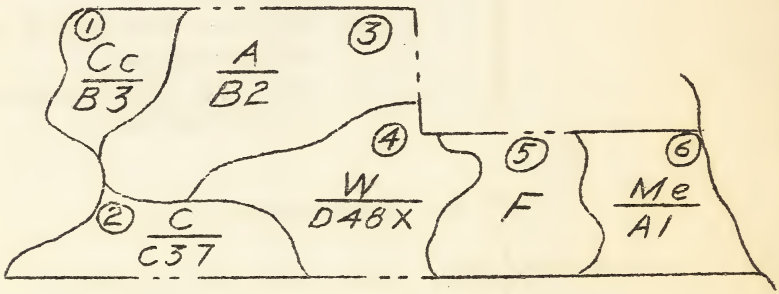
NATURE TAKES upward of 1000 years to build 1 inch of North Carolina Piedmont topsoil...man requires only from 1 to 7 years to lose it on cultivated rolling land.

DEEP RIVER VALLEY SOILS

23 DIFFERENT TYPES of Deep River valley soils have been identified by the Soil Erosion Service.

THAT THE FARMER and the Soil Erosion Service may have a guide to better plan a definite erosion control and land-use program based upon actual conditions existing on the individual farm, a detailed soil and farm map is made. This guide map shows the various types of soil found on the farm, the degree of slopes, and extent of erosion. Also, it shows area of forests, pastures and abandoned land. These different areas are indicated on the map by encircled numerals.

The following is a representative farm survey map:



How To Interpret Soil Symbols:

Symbols Above Line: Different types of soil are shown by the letters above the line.

Symbols Below Line: Figures and letters below the line indicate in order (1) the degree of slope, (2) extent of erosion, and (3) land cover. Absence of last figure below line shows that the area is under cultivation.

Explanation of Guide Map

Tract (1): Area of Cecil clay loam (Cc), from 3% to 7% slope (B) with 25% to 75% of surface soil removed, cultivated.

Tract (2): Cecil sandy loam (mixed phase), sloping from 7% to 12% with 25% to 75% of the surface soil gone, 1 to 5 gullies an acre, area in cultivation.

Tract (3): Appling fine sandy loam, slope from 3% to 7%, with less than 25% of the topsoil removed, cultivated.

Tract (4): Wilkes sandy loam, sheet erosion and severe gullying (48), sloping more than 12%, and tillable only between gullies, over 95% surface soil gone, idle land.

Tract (5): Forested area.

Tract (6): Meadow land, sloping less than 3% with little or no erosion apparent.

Reconnaissance Soil Survey.

IN 12 MIDDLE PIEDMONT North Carolina counties there are 376,500 acres of erstwhile cultivated land now abandoned due largely to aggravated erosion.

A SOIL EROSION SURVEY of the entire state is now being conducted by the Soil Erosion Service. Fifty-seven of North Carolina's 100 counties are severely eroded, seven are eroded to a moderately severe extent, and 10 others are less seriously washed. In 26 counties of the level coastal plain, there is little or no problem of erosion control.

EROSION WORK PROGRESSES

139 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, representing the same number of farms, have been signed up to September 1 by farmers in the Deep River valley erosion control area. The number of acres covered by these agreements is 12,729.

550 FARMS, an area of 37,780 acres, have been surveyed and mapped.

FARMERS OF THE AREA have agreed to strip-crop 865 acres. The number of acres actually strip-cropped is 165.

DEEP RIVER VALLEY LANDOWNERS have agreed to terrace 4,120 acres. 568 acres have been terraced already and 76 gully control structures have been built.

327 DEEP RIVER VALLEY FARMERS, owning 30,906 acres, have applied for erosion control work. Plans are under way for carrying out the erosion-control program as early as possible on those farms where the owners have agreed to cooperate.

-0-

RAINWASH ROBS the Carolina piedmont and mountain farmers of as much plantfood in 1 year as their crops remove in 20 years.

In Old Virginny

Corn fields in this section are noted for being steep, but Worley Kilgore, Guest River farmer, has the record steep field. While hoeing corn a few days ago, Worley's 14-year-old son, Winfred, fell out of the field and landed 40 feet below. He was carried to a hospital.

-- Virginia News Item.

LESPEDEZA SAVES SOIL

"Lespedeza is to my soil what salt is to my bread -- it makes it tenable." C. W. Allen of the Sumner section of Guilford county and a soil erosion control cooperator is responsible for that statement.

"LESPEDEZA COSTS me about $1.25 an acre to get in the ground," said Mr. Allen. "I use it mainly for soil-building and soil-saving, but this year it will prove to be my best hay chance, as my regular hay crop of soybeans failed."

MR. ALLEN DEVOTES about 17 acres to lespedeza each year in a rotation of corn, tobacco and lespedeza, substituting in some fields wheat for tobacco.

LESPEDEZA IS PROVING the most popular close-growing, erosion-preventing crop in North Carolina erosion control areas.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR UHLAND of the Missouri-Iowa erosion control project declared that lespedeza was the only crop that survived the long drought in that area during the summer.

AT THE GOVERNMENT soil erosion experiment station near Statesville over a 3-year period a cover of lespedeza lost only one-half ton of soil the acre, while land planted to cotton lost 14 tons, or 28 times as much; also lespedeza conserved 16% more rainfall.

THE SOIL EROSION SERVICE will distribute 176,000 pounds of lespedeza seed among the farmers cooperating in the erosion control movement in the North Carolina area.

FARMERS SELL PULPWOOD

The forestry department of the Soil Erosion Service has requests from paper manufacturers for 500 cords of pulpwood. Markets have also been located for 5000 crossties and for timber suitable for piling and telephone poles.

THE FORESTRY SCHEDULE is a very important one in a permanent plan of erosion control. The program calls for helping the landowner to return badly eroded lands and very steep slopes to useful trees. Trees and shrubs are also planted in gullies to help prevent further washing.

DEEP RIVER FARMERS are showing much interest in making better use of their woodland areas. The Soil Erosion Service is helping them to establish efficient forestry management, including the use of proper trees, thinning and giving fire protection.

PROPERLY MANAGED WOODLAND areas help materially to fatten the farmer's pocketbook, and at little expense, according to Charles H. Flory, chief forester.

IN PROTECTING WOODLANDS every effort should be made to prevent forest fires. Fire is the scourge of woodlands and wild-life, costly in taxes and soil wastage. Fire retards growth of trees or destroys them.

AN UNBURNED FORESTED AREA at Statesville lost 250 gallons to the acre from one heavy rain. A similar area, but burned over, lost 27,600 gallons, or 110 times as much.

Interested Farmers Speak Up

A DELEGATION FROM GUILFORD COUNTY, North Carolina, conferred today with officials of the Soil Erosion Service and the PWA relative to a proposal to extend the soil erosion work now in progress in the Deep River watershed so as to include the Haw River watershed.

-- Washington News Dispatch

MORE THAN 100 FARMERS of the Carraway Creek watershed of Randolph county met at the Carraway School recently where they discussed the possibilities of an extension of the soil erosion control work into that area. More than 90% of all the farmers in that watershed, owning more than 16,000 acres, petitioned Washington for the addition of that section to the Deep River project.

FARMERS' QUESTION BOX

Does the farmer who receives aid from the Soil Erosion Service have to pay additional taxes for the government's erosion control work?

He does not. He pays no more taxes than the taxpayer in town pays when getting a new postoffice building. The money is appropriated from the general fund.

Facts, Not Theories

NUMEROUS POWER AND MUNICIPAL water supply reservoirs in Piedmont North Carolina have been entirely filled with mud and silt within the last 40 to 50 years. Erosion has caused the complete filling of 11 out of 13 such reservoirs on Deep River alone.

DURING THE 50-YEAR PERIOD between 1879 and 1929 in North Carolina the area increased to crops was 34 percent, while the expenditure for fertilizer over the same period increased from $2,000,000 to $34,000,000, or 1600 percent.

Stallings Heads Virginia Project

THE BANISTER RIVER erosion control project, in Pittsylvania county, Virginia, with Chatham as headquarters, has been put under the supervision of the North Carolina Regional Director, Dr. J. H. Stallings, with P. F. Keil as acting assistant regional director.

THERE ARE 144,640 ACRES in the Virginia project. It is located 20 miles north of Danville.

THE TOTAL AREA now under the supervision of Dr. Stallings is about 340,000 acres. The Deep River project covers parts of Guilford, Forsyth and Randolph counties, North Carolina, and comprises approximately 137,000 acres. The Brown Creek area of Anson and Union counties in North Carolina and Chesterfield county in South Carolina embraces 58,000 acres.

Says a Deep River Farmer

"Due to the cooperation that the Soil Erosion Service is giving me, I figure that five years from now my farm will be worth twice as much as it is today," declared E. J. Hohn, well-known farmer of the Cedar Square district of Randolph County. "I am taking advantage of this work. It is something that I always wanted to do but I wasn't able to meet the expense. Besides, much of it I couldn't have accomplished even if I had had the money; I wouldn't have known how.

"I would say to the farmers of the Deep River area that when a car or a truck bearing the government's erosion control ensignia drives into their yard they may rest assured that a real friend has come to visit them."